

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6-12 and 14-15 is gratefully acknowledged and these claims have been rewritten in independent form as suggested. Currently amended claim 1 and new claim 17 describe the inventive structure in more detail to further distinguish from the prior art.

The specification has been amended to incorporate the proper headings under rule 37 CFR 1.97.

The priority document is attached hereto and under separate cover as requested.

Corrected drawings are attached hereto incorporating the Examiner's suggestion as requested.

Regarding the rejection to claims 1-5, 13 and 16 for being anticipated by PERKINS (US 3,734,646), applicant has amended claim 1 to obviate this rejection.

The present invention involves a blade arrangement wherein the restraint means is for preventing any radially outward movement of the abutment portion of the retention member when a forward axial force is applied by the blade to the abutment portion. As shown in Fig. 4, any radially outward movement of the abutment portion 52 is prevented by the engagement of the restraint member 60 against the post member 62 on the blade.

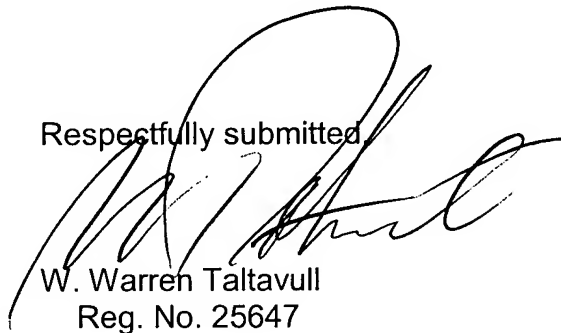
PERKINS discloses a restraint means to prevent an axial force being applied to the abutment portion. However, if an axial force is applied, the restraint means do not serve to prevent radially outward movement of the abutment portion because there is no radially outward movement possible even if the restraint means is not present. When a forward axial force is applied to the abutment portion disclosed in PERKINS, the axial force causes a bending moment about the bolts 67 which can weaken the bolts and result in a failure of the blade attachment causing a blade to come off of the disc.

In amended claim 1, the structure that prevents any bending moment about the retention member is explicitly recited and this relation is clearly not in PERKINS.

One advantage in the present invention done by preventing radially outward movement of the abutment portion when a forward axial force is applied by the blade to the abutment portion is there is no bending moment around the point of attachment, namely the bolts, and the performance of the bolts is improved in that.

Having addressed all the points raised in the Office action, it is believed that the application is now entitled to favorable treatment and this is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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